

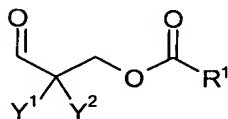
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A polyaldimine which is obtainable from
at least one polyamine A having aliphatic primary amino groups

and

at least one aldehyde B of the formula



where Y¹ and Y² either

independently of one another are an alkyl, aryl, ~~or~~ arylalkyl group, a substituted alkyl, a substituted aryl, an alkyl containing one or more heteroatoms, an aryl containing one or more heteratoms, a substituted alkyl containing one or more heteroatoms, or a substituted aryl containing one or more heteratoms~~which if desired may in each case be substituted, if desired may in each case contain heteroatoms and if desired may in each case contain unsaturated components;~~

or Y¹ and Y²

are connected to one another to form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring

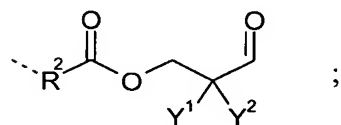
which has a ring size of between 5 and 8, ~~preferably 6, atoms and if~~
~~desired contains one or two singly unsaturated bonds;~~

and

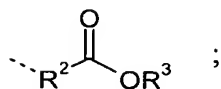
R¹ stands either

for a linear or branched alkyl chain having 11 to 30 carbon atoms, with
 or without at least one heteroatom, ~~in particular with at least one ether~~
~~oxygen~~, or for a singly or multiply unsaturated linear or branched
 hydrocarbon chain having 11 to 30 carbon atoms;

or for



or for



where R² is a linear or branched or cyclic alkylene chain having
 2 to 16 carbon atoms, with or without at least one heteroatom, ~~in~~
~~particular with at least one ether oxygen~~, or is a singly or
 multiply unsaturated linear or branched or cyclic hydrocarbon
 chain having 2 to 16 carbon atoms,
 and

R^3 is a linear or branched alkyl chain having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

2. (Currently Amended) The polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the polyamine **A** having aliphatic primary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of 1,6-hexamethylenediamine, MPMD, DAMP, IPDA, 2,2,4- and 2,4,4-trimethylhexamethylenediamine, 4-aminomethyl-1,8-octanediamine, 1,3- and 1,4-xylylenediamine, 1,3- and 1,4-bis(aminomethyl)cyclohexane, bis(4-aminocyclohexyl)methane, bis(4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)methane, 3(4),8(9)-bis(aminomethyl)tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]decane, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-diaminocyclohexane, polyoxyalkylene polyamines having in theory two or three amino groups, ~~especially Jeffamine[®] EDR-148, Jeffamine[®] D-230, Jeffamine[®] D-400 and Jeffamine[®] T-403, and also mixtures of two or more of the aforementioned polyamines.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the aldehyde **B** used for preparing the polyaldimine is obtainable by means of an esterification reaction of a β -hydroxy aldehyde with a carboxylic acid, ~~in particular without use of a solvent,~~ the β -hydroxy aldehyde being prepared, in situ if appropriate, from formaldehyde, and/or paraformaldehyde, and from a second aldehyde, this second aldehyde being selected from the group consisting of isobutyraldehyde, 2-methylbutyraldehyde, 2-ethylbutyraldehyde, 2-methylvaleraldehyde, 2-ethylcaproaldehyde, cyclopentanecarboxaldehyde, cyclohexanecarboxaldehyde, 1,2,3,6-tetrahydrobenzaldehyde, 2-methyl-3-phenylpropionaldehyde, 2-phenylpropionaldehyde and diphenylacetaldehyde, ~~preferably isobutyraldehyde.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The polyaldimine as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the carboxylic acid used for preparing the aldehyde **B** is selected from the group consisting of lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid,

linolenic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, azelaic acid and sebacic acid.

5. (Currently Amended) The polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that for preparing the polyaldimine~~wherein the aldehyde **B** is ~~used~~present stoichiometrically or in a stoichiometric excess in relation to the primary amino groups of the polyamine **A**.

6. (Currently Amended) The polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein $Y^1 = Y^2 = \text{methyl}$.

7. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1, comprising reacting an aldehyde **B** with a polyamine **A** having aliphatic primary amino groups.

8. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a polyaldimine as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a step of preparing an aldehyde **B** from a carboxylic acid and a β -hydroxy aldehyde, ~~in particular without use of a solvent,~~ the β -hydroxy aldehyde being prepared, ~~in situ if appropriate,~~ from formaldehyde, and/or paraformaldehyde or oligomeric forms of formaldehyde, and from a second aldehyde.

9. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a polyaldimine as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a step of preparing an aldehyde **B** from a carboxylic acid and 3-hydroxypivalaldehyde, ~~in particular without use of a solvent,~~ 3-hydroxypivalaldehyde being prepared, ~~in situ if appropriate,~~ from formaldehyde, and/or paraformaldehyde, and from isobutyraldehyde.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a polyaldimine as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein no solvents are used during the preparation of the polyaldimine and/or of the aldehyde.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~hydrolysis process for hydrolysis of~~ characterized in that a polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1 ~~is brought~~comprising bringing the polyaldimine into

contact with water in the gaseous aggregate state, ~~in particular in the form of atmospheric moisture, and~~ whereby aldehyde **B** is released.

15. (Previously Presented) A hydrolysis process characterized in that a polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1 is brought into contact with water in the form of a water-containing component or a water-releasing component, and aldehyde **B** is released.

16. (Previously Presented) The hydrolysis process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the polyaldimine is present in a composition which comprises components that are reactive toward amines.

17. (New) The polyaldimine as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that R¹ in the aldehyde **B** is a linear or branched alkyl chain having 17 to 30 carbon atoms.